Pakistan. Pakistan has not responded positively to these offers.

Israeli offer for sending commandos

376. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Israeli Government have made an offer to send their Crack Commandos who are known to be expert in tackling hostage issues for securing the release of foreign hostages held in captivity by Al-Faran;

(b) whether Government have accepted their offer; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Action on the findings of the National Commission on Women

377. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKINATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what follow-up action has been taken by Government of UP on the findings of the National Commission of Women relating to the atrocities on women at Muzaffarnagar on 2nd/3rd October, 1994; and

(b) whether Government have granted permission to CBI to prosecute the guilty officers involved directly or indirectly with the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. MEIJINLUNG KAMSON): (a) The report of the National Commission for Women, on the allegations on atrocities on women on 2nd/3rd October, 1994 was forwarded to the State Govt. of U.P. on 30.11.1994 for taking necessary action. In the meantime a CBI enquiry was also instituted to probe various incidents connected with Uttarakhand agitation including the allegations of molestation of women at Muzaffarnagar. The State Government of U.P. is taking further action in the matter on the basis of the CBI reports in the matter.

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has granted such permission.

US Military package to Pakistan

378. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Congress recently adopted a proposal to transfer $ 370 million military package to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision to protest such a deal;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) what immediate steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. India's serious concern in this regard was conveyed unambiguously at each stage of the legislative process in the US Congress, to the US Government as well as to US Congressmen and Senators.

(d) Government are determined to take all necessary measures to counter the adverse effect of the transfer of US military equipment to Pakistan.

Declaring of state roads as national highways in Maharashtra

379. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal on the 30th July, 1995 for declaring 11 State roads as National Highways;

(b) the amount proposed to be

released by the Central Government for those roads; and

(c) the response of the Central Government to the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The State Govt. of Maharashtra has been representing from time to time for declaration of certain roads as new National Highways. During the 8th Plan, the State Government has forwarded 11 proposals of State roads to be declared as National Highways. As the funds allocated during the 8th Plan for National Highways are not even adequate to meet the developmental needs of the existing routes, it is difficult to declare the above State roads as New National Highways at present stage.

Extension of postal network in backward States

380. SHRI BHAGABANMAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that the postal network has not been expanded adequately in the backward States like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) whether it is far from satisfactory in the tribal regions in these States;

(c) if so, the steps taken to pay adequate attention in the expansion of postal network in these States; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Postal network has duly expanded in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. The average area and population served per Post Office in these States, compared with all-India average are as follows:—

	All India	Orissa	Bihar	Madhya Pradesh
Area served per P.O. (sq. km.)	21.48	19.28	14.70	26.55
Population served per P.O.	5526	3922	7423	5897

(b) No, Sir. Tribal areas in these States have been receiving due attention in development.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Demand for Cellular Phones

381. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to introduce cellular phone service in additional areas in the country;

(b) whether he is aware of the increasing response and demand for providing cellular phone service;

(c) if so, the year by which the cellular phone service would be provided in the entire country; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the existing phone services in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The service has already started in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta & Madras. The service is likely to start in many cities in the rest of the country by the end of 1996.